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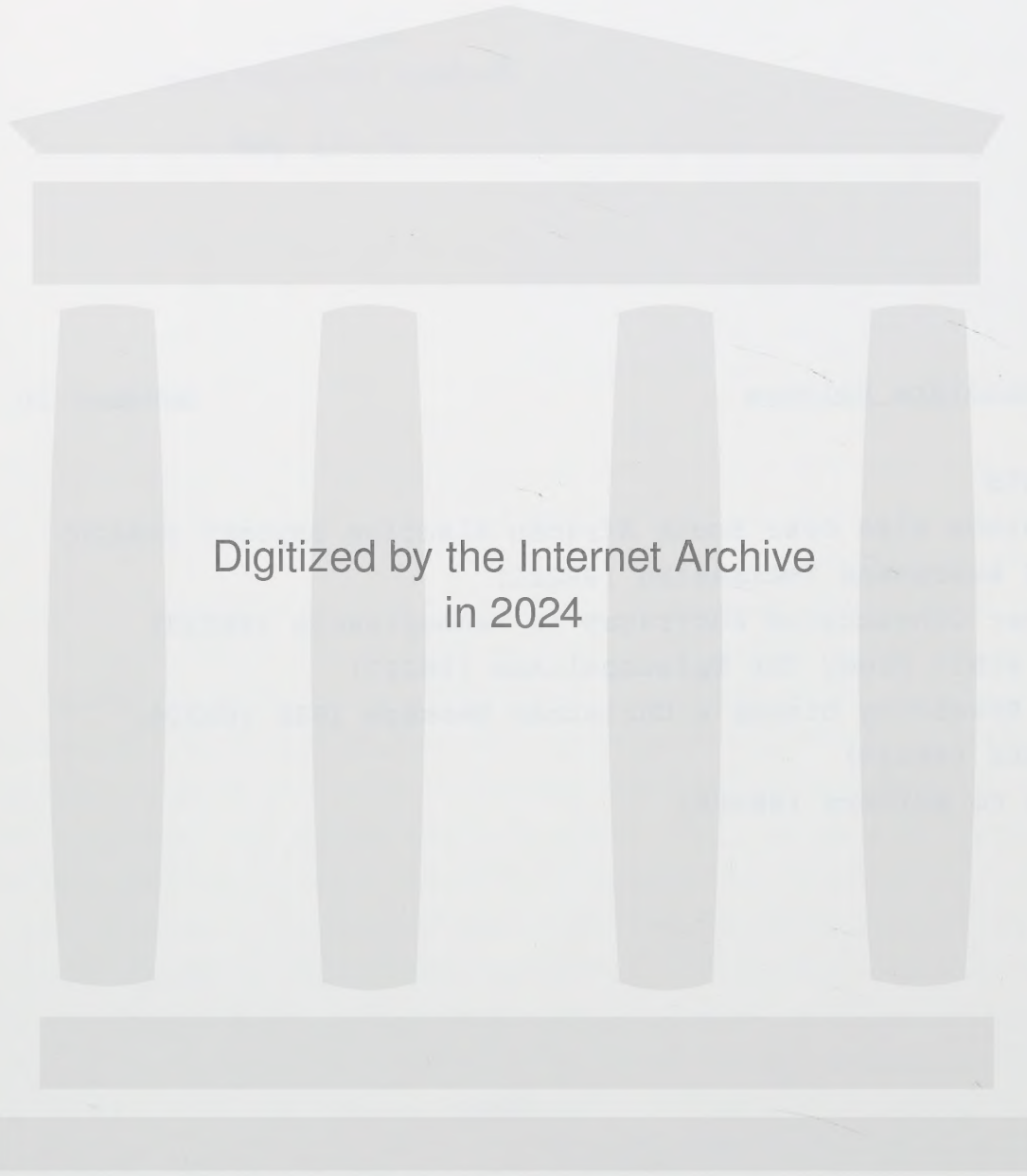
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CONTENTS	PAGE
■ Tensions Rise Over South African Election Boycott (88220)	2
■ AIDS Awareness Increasing (88221)	5
■ Turner Consecrated Suffragan in Pennsylvania (88222)	8
■ New Bible Study for Episcopalians (88223)	10
■ The Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message 1988 (88224)	12
■ Briefs (88225)	14
■ Note to Editors (88226)	18



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Tensions Rise Over South African Election Boycott DPS 88220

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- On October 25, leaders of many denominations from across the United States will meet at the Interchurch Center in New York City in solidarity with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other South African leaders who are defying the South African government's continued support of the country's apartheid system. The meeting is called on the eve of South Africa's October 26 elections -- elections that Tutu and other South African religious leaders have urged the people to boycott. Alarmed by the atmosphere of government violence surrounding the boycott, the National Council of Churches (NCC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) are sponsoring this meeting. American church leaders will be "challenged to put aside priorities and organize a coordinated and sustained ecumenical response to last as long as the battle wages in South Africa." Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning will be among the Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox leaders attending.

Tensions between South Africa's government and many of its religious leaders have escalated dramatically in October. On Sunday, October 9, Archbishop Desmond Tutu again defied the South African government by calling for a boycott of municipal elections scheduled for October 26. In a pastoral letter read in all of the churches of his Cape Town diocese, Tutu urged all Christians to avoid voting on the grounds that participating in the system would further the structures of apartheid. The letter was also signed by Tutu's three suffragan bishops.

The pastoral letter further stated that the bodies for which South Africans will be voting in October are racially based and that the government would use the elections as a stepping stone toward the establishment of a national council -- in Tutu's words, "an undemocratic body which is unlikely to produce just or representative constitutional proposals." The letter from Tutu and his suffragans is

DPS 88220/2

in the spirit of statements by both the South African Council of Churches and the Catholic Bishops' Conference; both groups have urged Christians not to "participate in their own oppression" by either running for office or voting.

The warnings of South Africa's religious leaders are given in the face of the ruling National Party's determination to make the election process work. The government has spent large sums of money advertising the elections, which are open to all races. Political commentators in South Africa have suggested that the National Party itself may rise or fall on public response to the elections, which represent an important part of their reform policy. Pressure to participate in the election process is heightened by the country's emergency regulations that make it illegal to publish or advertise in any way a boycott of the elections. Penalties are severe and could include a ten-year jail sentence or very substantial fine.

However, Bishop Tutu, his suffragans, and other South African religious leaders are firm in their resistance, despite the pressure - and the danger of their stand. In the pastoral letter from the Cape Town bishops, they point out that the elections take place at a time when the government has outlawed extra-parliamentary organizations working for change, and when many political leaders are banned or in jail. "While the Government claims it is organizing 'democratic' elections ... it is using all the instruments of a totalitarian state to create a climate in which talk of democracy is hollow."

The Cape Town letter is very clear in its rationale for an election boycott: "We believe it is of critical importance to our country's future that the Government should be given a very clear message that its vision for the future, as well as its specific plans to achieve that vision, are wholly inadequate. A boycott of these elections would send such a message in the hope that the Government would reassess its position."

There has been specific pressure directed against Archbishop Tutu in the election confrontation. Police took possession of the

DPS 88220/3

transcript of a sermon preached by Tutu in his Cape Town cathedral; the sermon called for an election boycott. However, no further move was made by the government. It is believed unlikely that they will take any direct action against Tutu because of his prominence worldwide. They have stated that they do not want to give religious leaders "the publicity or claim to martyrdom they were so avidly seeking."

South African church leaders, however, are well aware of an undercurrent of violence in the election controversy. Many believe that the bomb blast that devastated the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches in late August was timed to disrupt organization of the election boycott. A week before the blast, the Pretoria headquarters of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference were raided by police searching for pamphlets urging the boycott. On October 12, against a background of growing tension, a fire (believed to be arson) gutted two floors of the Pretoria headquarters of the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

All of these events and issues form the background for the urgent meeting American church leaders will hold in New York on October 25.

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AIDS Awareness Increasing

DPS 88221

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- As the dioceses and congregations of the Episcopal Church across the country prepare to join with the Presiding Bishop on November 13 in the Third National Day of Prayer for Persons Living with AIDS and Those Who Minister with Them, it is important to consider the ways in which many groups and individuals across the Church are already engaged in active AIDS ministries. In many ways, the General Convention resolution lifting up the ministries of those who care for persons living with AIDS underscored what was already being done.

One vital aspect of fighting the spread of AIDS is education. People within -- and outside -- the Church need to understand the disease so that they are better able to fight it on all levels. To this end, the Diocese of Southern Ohio, for instance, has purchased an AIDS curriculum -- called "A Curriculum for the Church: AIDS" -- that will be given, free of charge, to every parish in the diocese. The basic curriculum, which was approved by the Surgeon General's office, will be supplemented by material supplied by the diocesan AIDS task force.

The Diocese of Southern Ohio, however, has seen, since first acquiring the curriculum, the need for it to be handled sensitively and effectively. Each parish in the diocese has been encouraged to send two to four members to training seminars on its use. The first seminar was held in February 1988. More recently, on October 15, another training seminar was held at Procter Conference Center in Midway, Ohio. Among those attending were both first timers and people who had attended the February sessions and felt they needed a refresher course.

Those parish representatives who attended the October training session were first offered guidelines and suggestions for using the curriculum. Then they were given an AIDS update from a staff member

DPS 88221/2

of the Ohio Department of Health. Small group sessions followed, which focused on how to talk about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the Church, including information on interpreting AIDS theologically.

The Diocese of Virginia is also actively involved in AIDS ministry. The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Bishop of Virginia, recently announced the establishment of the Medication Fund, for uninsured and underinsured person's living with AIDS. The Fund was started in the summer of 1988 with seed money from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond; each donated \$2,500. It is administered by the Richmond AIDS Ministry, a recently established, interfaith organization based at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond. Stephen L. Williams, a person living with AIDS, coordinates the work of the Ministry.

The first major project of the Richmond AIDS Ministry was a conference -- "AIDS: The Compassionate Response" -- held at St. Paul's on September 24. The purpose of the conference was to coordinate the resources and efforts of area churches and synagogues in ministering to those living with AIDS. Bishop Lee's announcement of the new Medication Fund came at the end of the conference.

The first project of the Medication Fund will be the Inhalent Pentamidine Treatment Program offered in collaboration with Richmond Pulmonary Associates, the Medical College of Virginia, and the Virginia Home Respiratory Care Organization, which will administer the treatment at cost.

The Diocese of Virginia's involvement in AIDS ministry also includes the largest grant ever made by a single diocese or denomination to AIDS ministry. A \$50,000 grant from the diocese's Mission Development Service helped the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM) start in 1987. NOVAM, based at Immanuel Episcopal Church in Alexandria, provides pastoral counseling, financial assistance, a speakers' bureau, a telephone helpline, direct, practical assistance, and interfaith services of healing and reconciliation.

DPS 88221/3

AIDS education programs have also been developed and run by the diocesan Commission on AIDS Ministry. The Commission has recently produced a videotape and study guide for young people of high school and college age. The video and guide are available free to parishes and groups within the diocese, and to others, at cost (\$28.00). The Commission plans subsequent educational videos on AIDS for adult groups and children's groups.

Fortunately, these programs in Southern Ohio and Virginia represent only the tip of the iceberg. The Church is entering into an active and committed response to the human problems raised by the AIDS crisis at all levels. On the November 13 day of prayer, it seems fitting that the Church should pause, think, remember -- and then move on in its ministry of helping and healing.

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Turner Consecrated Suffragan in Pennsylvania

DPS 88222

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- On October 7 the Rev. Franklin D. Turner was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. More than 2,500 people attended the colorful rite, and some 300 clergy and religious participated. Because of the anticipated size of the gathering, the consecration was held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. The occasion was historic. Turner, who was elected at a special convention in June, is the first black bishop in the 205-year history of the diocese. Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning and 17 other bishops of the Episcopal Church took part in the laying on of hands, the act of consecration. Consecrating bishops included Bishop Allen L. Bartlett, diocesan of Pennsylvania, and retired diocesan, Bishop Lyman C. Ogilby. Turner had been assistant for congregations to the Bishop of Pennsylvania since 1983.

The consecration was an unusually joyous event with participants representing many phases of Turner's distinguished career in the Church. For instance, the crosier that Bishop Bartlett presented to Turner as one of the symbols of his office was a shepherd's crook sent as a gift from the Diocese of Mityana in Uganda, Pennsylvania's companion diocese. There were also many people present from the Episcopal Church Center in New York where Turner served as staff officer for black ministries from 1974 to 1983.

Turner was born in Norwood, North Carolina, on July 19, 1933. He earned his A.B. degree from Livingstone College and his S.T.B. degree from Berkeley Divinity School (from which he also holds a D.D. degree); he pursued further graduate study at General Theological Seminary. He was ordained deacon, and later priest, in 1965. In addition to his posts at the Episcopal Church Center and on Bishop Bartlett's staff, Turner was vicar of the Church of the Epiphany in

DPS 88222/2

Dallas (1965-1966) and rector of St. George's Church in Washington, D.C. (1966-1972). He is a fellow of the College of Preachers.

In 1963 Turner married Barbara Dickerson. They have one child.

In a day filled with moving moments, one of the most moving was the resounding applause that greeted newly consecrated Bishop Turner when he was presented to the congregation by the Presiding Bishop. Turner then was celebrant at the Eucharist.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Turner Consecrated Suffragan in Pennsylvania

(88222) -- Bishop Franklin D. Turner, left, newly consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Pennsylvania, receiving his crosier, a gift from Mityana diocese in Uganda, from diocesan Bishop Allen L. Bartlett of Pennsylvania, right center. Co-consecrator, Bishop John D. Walker of Washington, is at left center. The Very Rev. Thomas L. McClellan, right, was master-of-ceremonies at the consecration, and is rector of St. Mary-at-the-Cathedral and dean of Wissahickon.

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New Bible Study for Episcopalians

DPS 88223

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- In July, the 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, responding to the report and proposals of the Presiding Bishop's Task Force on Christian Education, called for a broad, new, scripturally based Christian education program for the Church. The Task Force, in its extensive pre-Convention studies, had found that "Perhaps the most important of the [recurring concerns in congregations] was the central importance of biblical literacy." As an initial contribution in the area of specific Bible study, the Bible Reading Fellowship, the primary Bible study organization in the Episcopal Church, has announced the availability, on January 1, 1989, of Journey Through the World.

Journey Through the World is a daily, dated Bible study, covering all of the Bible, every five years. In each month of the cycle, a book of the Bible or a theme in Scripture is studied. For each day, there is a passage from the Bible of approximately 10-15 verses to read, and a clear, helpful commentary on it, including a reflection and discussion question.

This Bible study is unique in many ways. It is written by bishops, priests, and laypeople of the Episcopal Church for use by the people of the Church. Unlike many other popular guides to Scripture, the commentary in Journey Through the World is both understandable and scholarly; it is not a devotional meditation. All of the material covered is presented in a relational way -- it tries to help each of us answer the question, "What does this [passage] say about how God wants me to live?"

Journey Through the World is flexible. The questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each reading are easily adaptable to group study. There are special studies for Advent and Lent. For Sundays, there is a short teaching on some subject vital to the Christian faith, with a supporting scriptural reference.

DPS 88223/2

As the Church embarks on its journey to fulfill the Mission Imperatives, this new tool for Bible study could offer a vital and invaluable first step.

For further information about Journey Through the World, write or call: Bible Reading Fellowship, P.O. Box M, Winter Park, Florida 32790; Tel. (407) 628-4330.

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PRESIDING BISHOP'S
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
1988

DPS 88224

What is Christmas without Joseph?

How often the obedient and patient carpenter is omitted from our recollection of events surrounding the birth of our blessed Lord. The iconography of Christmas usually has Joseph unobtrusively in the background, leaning on his staff or leading the heavy-laden donkey into Egypt. Yet, God called Joseph, and through him guided the Holy Family through the dangers of our Lord's infancy.

When Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit and Joseph considered terminating their betrothal, an angel appeared to him in a dream. The angel revealed to Joseph the working of the Holy Spirit, and told him not to be afraid to take Mary into his house. And the angel named the child Jesus. Joseph was obedient to God's messenger.

When Herod, having heard of the birth of Jesus, set out to kill the infant, again an angel appeared to Joseph. God's messenger told him to take the family into Egypt until Herod's death. Again, Joseph was obedient and took the Holy Family into the safety of exile.

In Egypt an angel appeared to Joseph and told him of Herod's death, but warned him to avoid the region of Galilee and to settle in a town called Nazareth. Joseph, ever God's obedient servant, did as he was told.

Holy, as in "Holy Family," does not mean "stress-free." The brief account of Joseph in the New Testament does not leave us with a record of a trouble-free family. Joseph was called by God to do what was socially unacceptable in taking a pregnant Mary into his house; he was unable to find a suitable place for her to give birth; he led his family into exile; he had to begin a new life in Nazareth. And when Jesus eluded his parents at the age of twelve in the temple, the account does not suggest a doting parent or a compliant child. The story of Joseph is unique, but it is also the story of many of us.

Christmas is one of the most sacred times in our culture. Joseph is an important part of our understanding of the Incarnation because he helps remind us that God entered into the very core of our humanity. Joseph reminds us that God often calls the most lowly and the most unlikely to be instruments of salvation. Joseph reminds us that our relationships may not always be trouble-free or happy, but they can be holy.

DPS 88224/2

May you have a blessed Christmas; a Christmas observed with the awareness that God can work in and through you; a Christmas celebrated with the awareness that God makes all life holy.

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BRIEFS

Maryland Launches Diocesan Renewal

DPS 88225

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- The Diocese of Maryland, with 123 parishes and missions and over 50,000 baptized members, has launched CROSS+ROADS, a diocesan renewal program that will attempt to raise \$8 million by 1992. The target date has great significance to the diocese, as it is the 300th anniversary of the Anglican Communion's presence in Maryland, and the 200th anniversary of the consecration of Thomas John Claggett, the first Bishop of Maryland and the first Episcopal Bishop consecrated on American soil.

Of the \$8 million dollar goal, \$4 million will be allocated to endow funds for congregational renewal and development, ordained ministry, lay ministry, and social ministry; to fund grants to local parishes for specific programs; to finance the first phase of renovation to the Bishop Claggett Center, which will become headquarters for a diocesan lay academy; to endow the Nehemiah Fund; and to fund local ministry and mission initiatives. The other \$4 million has been designated to fund a new diocesan center at the Cathedral. For the first time in the history of the Episcopal Church in Maryland, the bishop's desk and the bishop's official chair will be in the same place.

The CROSS+ROADS programs will be developed so that the four priorities for the diocese as established by Bishop A. Theodore Eastman -- lay ministry, ordained ministry, social ministry, and congregational development -- will be intertwined with the four commitments of the diocese lifted up by the parishes in a 1987 survey: spiritual formation, Christian education, Christian outreach, and evangelism.

COCU Elects New Executive

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- The Consultation on Church Union

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DPS 88225/2

(COCU), meeting in New Orleans, announced on October 7 the election of a new general secretary (chief executive officer) of the organization, Dr. David W. A. Taylor. Taylor, who had been serving as interim general secretary since the resignation last spring of the former general secretary, Dr. Gerald F. Moede, has been an executive on the staff of the Consultation since 1986. He is a Presbyterian minister and a former executive officer of the Prebyterian Church.

The Consultation was formed in 1962 to seek a plan for uniting the churches. The plan currently under consideration envisions a covenant communion of the member churches. Nine denominations are currently members. In order of the size of their denominational membership, they are: the United Methodist Church, the Prebyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and the International Council of Community Churches. The Consultation's offices are located in Princeton, New Jersey.

World Community Day Set for November

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- On Friday, November 4, 1988, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women around the United States will participate in a common worship service affirming the ministry of "everywoman" in the church. Sponsored by Church Women United of the National Council of Churches, this ecumenical service will seek to identify and lift up the varied ministries performed by women both within and outside the organized church -- ministries that touch families, friends, and neighbors, ministries that care for the sick, the elderly, the hungry, and the destitute.

Seven churchwomen from Lynchburg, Virginia, both lay and ordained, created "Everywoman's Ministry," the collective title given to the service and study materials prepared for World Community Day.

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DPS 88225/3

The celebration was designed as a challenge to women to recognize and share the gifts of their individual ministries and to encourage one another to use their gifts and talents to the fullest.

World Community Day is one of three ecumenical observances sponsored by Church Women United in the United States. The other observances are World Prayer Day (held the first Friday in March) and May Fellowship Day (held the first Friday in May).

Offerings from World Community Day enable, in part, the mission and ministry of Church Women United through programs for spiritual and personal enrichment, development and ecumenical community, the three celebration days, networking with Christian women all over the world, Intercontinental Grants for Mission, and programs related to Ecumenical Action -- including the Church Women United offices at the United Nations and in Washington, D.C.

Learning Through Service -- It's Growing

NEW YORK (DPS, Oct. 20) -- Sometimes we fail to pay attention to an organization until it asks for money. Learning Through Service is launching its annual fund drive, and that serves as a reminder that this remarkable organization, sponsored by the Association of Episcopal Colleges, has just passed its third birthday.

It all began at the General Convention in Anaheim in 1985. It was proposed that college-age young people would respond to the helping ministries of the Church if given a means of focusing their concerns. Learning Through Service, a program asking that students give three months to a year of their lives serving in 25 locations in the United States and abroad, enabled those ministries. To date, more than 100 students have joined Learning Through Service.

At the 69th General Convention in Detroit, Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning marked the third anniversary of the program when he presented, for the first time, the Presiding Bishop's Distinguished Service Award, to seven outstanding participants. The young people who received them had made exceptional contributions to the lives of

DPS 88225/4

others -- and had also had amazing learning experiences.

Two recipients of the Presiding Bishop's awards, Susan Anslow and Sarah Bird, had served at the Holy Cross Mission in Bolahun, Liberia; another, Christina Griffith, served at Trinity School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and, later, at an Anglican village school in Kenya; Peter Gudaitis, who graduated from Kenyon College in 1988, had led the Kenyon/APSO Mission Outreach program serving the people of Lincoln County, West Virginia, for two of his student years; Chris Hardy served at the Bronx Youth Ministry in New York City's South Bronx neighborhood; Marcus Jennings served at an orphanage and school for handicapped children sponsored by the Caribbean Conference of Churches in Kingston, Jamaica; and Frances Nazro served at Tower Hamlets Mission for the Homeless in London's East End.

Those interested in the continuing work of the Learning Through Service program may write: Learning Through Service, The Association of Episcopal Colleges, Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017-4594.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

DPS 88226

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church will meet November 15-18 at the Episcopal Church Center. The meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. on the 15th and is scheduled to conclude at noon on the 18th. For members of the press interested in covering the meeting, a registration form for the hotel is enclosed; or call the number listed with your information, as soon as possible.

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Meeting of The Executive Council

November 15-18, 1988

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Halloran House
525 Lexington Ave. @ 49th St.
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MEETING ROOMS:

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New York, NY 10017
(212) 867-8400

Name: _____

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(Where I can be reached during the day)

I will attend this meeting: Yes _____ No _____

I will need overnight accommodations: Yes _____ No _____

I will arrive on (date) _____

Airline & Flight #: _____ Air arrival time: _____

I will depart on (date) _____

Airline & Flight #: _____ Air departure time: _____

I will join the Council for the following lunches (costs to be determined):

_____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday

Use this space for special request/information you feel will be of assistance in
arranging your accommodations.

Please return this form no later than **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1988** to:

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To supply updated information should your plans change, please call our office at
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